



G-5's "Eye on AMC"

U.S. Army Materiel Command

The Army's Premier Provider of Materiel Readiness

September 16, 2005

DoD seeks civilian employee volunteers for Katrina relief

In light of the ongoing need for volunteers to support hurricane relief efforts in the Gulf, the Defense Department is encouraging its federal civilian employees to consider participating. In a Sept. 8 memo to department leaders, David S. C. Chu, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, urged DoD employees to offer their services, as long as it doesn't impact on their immediate defense mission.

In a related move, Chu announced DoD's participation in an emergency leave transfer program to help employees affected by Hurricane Katrina. That measure, authorized throughout the federal government by President Bush, will allow DoD civilian employees to donate unused annual leave to other federal civilian employees who need more time off from work due to the hurricane.

In his memo regarding the volunteer program, Chu noted that the Department of Homeland Security anticipates the need for 2,000 volunteers to help with the federal government's response and recovery efforts under way. As a result, he said, the Federal Emergency Management Agency is offering federal civilian employees the opportunity to volunteer for 14- to 30-day deployments to affected areas to help support DoD efforts.

TARDEC equipment, personnel dispatched for disaster relief

Engineers from the U.S. Army's Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center, earlier this week began generating potable water using purification equipment to assist the Federal Emergency Management Agency in the Hurricane Katrina relief effort.

An advanced Expeditionary Unit Water Purifier, capable of generating 100,000 gallons of potable water per day, has been set-up on the beach in Biloxi, Miss., to provide water for the nearby Biloxi Regional Medical Center. Since the hurricane hit, the hospital has been without water, relying on bottled drinking water for patients and staff.

As additional capability, two 600-gallon-per-hour Reverse Osmosis Water Purification Units and one 1,500-gallon-per-hour Tactical Water Purification System have been deployed to Waveland, Miss., to support local residents. The systems are being operated by engineers from TARDEC and U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Reclamation, among others.

"We are pleased this emerging technology will be put to use to help the local residents who have suffered from the effects of the most devastating hurricane in this country's history," said Dr. Richard E. McClelland, TARDEC director. "Years of research, design and engineering have gone into the development of this technology so that it can be helpful in such a critical situation today."

Mobile homes for Hurricane Katrina survivors located at Lone Star, Red River

Red River Army Depot and Lone Star Army Ammunition Plant have been selected by the Federal Emergency Management Agency as a storage-distribution point for approximately 25,000 mobile homes and RVs that will provide temporary housing for hurricane survivors in Texas and Louisiana, according to Kent Weather, public information officer for FEMA Region VI. LSAAP and RRAD will not be used to house evacuees.

The combined federal reservation of approximately 35,000 acres located in Texarkana, Texas, began receiving mobile homes and RVs on Sept. 6. Currently, there are 420 RVs at LSAAP and 170 at RRAD, and 247 housing units have been distributed, according to a FEMA spokesperson.

Did you know...

Each year, from September 15 to October 15, America honors the many contributions Hispanic Americans have made and continue to make to our nation by observing National Hispanic Heritage Month. The theme for this year's celebration is **"Hispanic Americans: Strong and Colorful Threads in the American Fabric."** Please join the AMC community as we celebrate this month through various activities highlighting our Hispanic American heritage.